

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 ORM-02 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 /106 W  
-----171521Z 081579 /41

R 171322Z MAR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5295  
INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USMISSION USUN  
USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 1924

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, IS, UR  
SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSES GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT SOVIET  
JEWRY

BEGIN SUMMARY: FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON, IN A STRONGLY  
WORDED STATEMENT TO THE KNESSET ON MARCH 16, EXPRESSED  
THE GOVERNMENT'S CONCERN ABOUT THE GRAVELY DETERIORATING  
SITUATION OF JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION. HE SAID ISRAEL  
WOULD CONTINUE ITS CAMPAIGN FOR THE RIGHTS OF SOVIET  
JEWRY, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO EMIGRATE IF DESIRED.  
IN A RELATED DEVELOPMENT THE GOVERNMENT ALSO DENIED  
RECENT PRESS REPORTS OF A DEAL BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE  
SOVIET UNION REGARDING IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL. END SUMMARY

1. THE GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING  
TEXT OF A STATEMENT IN THE KNESSET BY FOREIGN MINISTER  
ALLON REGARDING SOVIET JEWRY ON MARCH 16.
2. BEGIN GEXT: GLOOMIER AND MOR EVIL-PORTENDING REPORTS  
THAN IN THE PAST, HAVE OF LATE BEEN ARRIVING FROM THE  
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SOVIET UNION. THE FORGING OF THE MALICIOUS PLOT  
AGAINST ALIYA ACTIVISTS, AND THE TORRENT OF ANTI-JEWISH  
INCITEMENT IN THE COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA--ATTAINING TO EVEN  
THE CONTEMPTIBLE ATTEMPT TO LINK ZIONISM WITH NAZISM--  
RECALL THE DARKEST PERIOD OF THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES'  
TREATMENT OF SOVIET JEWRY, A GENERATION AGO.

3. TWO WEEKS AGO, I SOUNDED A TOCSIN FROM THIS ROSTRUM THAT THE SOVIET MASS COMMUNICATIONS MEDIA HAD MADE ANTI-ISRAELI AND ANTI-ZIONIST PROPAGANDA THEIR DAILY FARE. SINCE THEN, THINGS HAVE BECOME GRAVER AND MORE EXACERBATED. TWELVE DAYS AGO, ON MARCH 4, THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT LENT A NEW DIMENSION TO ITS PERSECUTIONS OF THE ALIYA MOVEMENT AND ITS ACTIVITIES--AND, IN FACT OF ALL SOVIET JEWS--A GRAVE AND WORRYING DIMENSION, SUCH AS WE HAD NOT KNOWN FOR SOME TWENTY-FIVE YEARS. ON THAT DAY, THE OFFICIAL SOVIET GOVERNMENT ORGAN, "IZVESTIA," PUBLISHED A "PERSONAL CONFESSION" BY A POLICE INFORMER--ONE "SENYA LIPAVSKY"--IMPUTING TO A GROUP OF JEWISH ALIYA ACTIVISTS THE BASE ALLEGATION THAT THEY HAD OPERATED IN THE SERVICE OF AMERICAN INTELLIGENCE. THIS SAME INFORMER, WHO PASSED HIMSELF OFF TO THE ALIYA ACTIVISTS AS A "REFUSENIK"--I.E., A ONE WHOSE EMIGRATION WAS NOT PERMITTED BY THE AUTHORITIES--NAMED ACTIVISTS WHO ARE STILL, AGAINST THEIR WILL, IN MOSCOW: PERSONS SUCH AS PROFESSOR ALEXANDER LERNER, ANATOLY SHCHARNSKY, VLADIMIR SLEPAK. THE LETTER OF THAT SAME LIPAVSKY, AND THE ACCOMPANYING "INVESTIGATIVE INTERPRETATIVE" ARTICLE IN "IZVESTIA," ALSO MENTION ACTIVISTS WHO SUCCEEDED IN REACHING ISRAEL--AMONG THEM PROFESSOR VITALY RUBIN, DR. ALEXANDER LUNZ, DR. EDWARD SHIFRIN--AS WELL AS PROFESSOR DAVID AZHBEL, WHO IS IN THE UNITED STATES. AS IS KNOWN, ANATOLY SHCHARANSKY WAS DETAINED YESTERDAY, WHILE THE OTHER ALIYA ACTIVISTS MENTIONED IN "IZEVSTIA," AND THE SEVERAL MORE ACTIVISTS AS WELL, UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE UNDER FLAGRANTLY CONSPICIOUS KGB SURVEILLANCE. ANOTHER ALIYA ACTIVIST, YOSEF BEGUN, WAS DETAINED IN MOSCOW THE DAY BEFORE THE "IZVESTIA" ARTICLE WAS PUBLISHED, AND IS CHARGED WITH ALLEGED "PARASITISM."

4. NO GREAT IMAGINATION IS REQUIRED TO CONCEIVE WHAT EFFECT ANTI-JEWISH LIBELS OF THIS KIND HAVE WHEN THEY ARE PUBLISHED IN AN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER SUCH AS "IZEVESTIA," WHICH REACHES EVERY CORNER OF THE USSR. ARTICLES SUCH AS THESE ARE TANTAMOUNT TO GIVING FREE REIN TO THE LATENT--AND POSSIBLY NOT SO LATENT--ANTI-SEMITIC FEELINGS AMONG LARGE SECTIONS OF SOVIET SOCIETY: SUCH ARTICLES AMOUNT TO GIVING FREE PLAY TO AN ATMOSPHERE OF HATRED OF JEWS AND DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THEM--BY VIRTUE OF THEIR BEING JEWISH--THROUGHOUT THE SOVIET UNION.

5. AND AS THOUGH THE DARK PLOT OF "IZVESTIA" WERE NOT SUFFICIENT, ONE WEEK LATER MOSCOW TELEVISION RESCREENED

THE FILM ENTITLED "TRADING IN SOULS"--A FILM WHOSE  
SUBJECT MATTER IS DENUNCIATION OF THE STATE OF ISRAEL  
AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE, AND PORTRAYAL OF ALIYA ACTIVISTS,  
THOSE WONDERFUL IDEALISTS, AS BASE MONEY GRUBBERS.

6.I SHALL NOT RECAPITULATE HERE THE SKEIN OF  
SCHEMING BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES AGAINST SOVIET  
JEWRY'S CULTURAL AND NATIONAL RIGHTS. NOR WILL I

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PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 /106 W  
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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
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INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
AMEMBASSY VIENNA  
USMISSION USUN  
USSMISSION GENEVA 890

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DRAW AN INDIVIDUAL LIST OF ACTS OF PERSECUTION AND  
OPPRESSION TAKEN BY THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES--FUTILELY--  
AGAINST SOVIET JEWRY'S ALIYA MOVEMENT AND ALIYA  
ACTIVISTS. WE HAVE STRIVEN AGAINST THESE DEEDS, AND  
SHALL STRIVE AGAINST THEM WITH ALL OUR MIGHT.

7. I WISH TO DENOUNCE IN PARTICULAR, AND TO WARN  
EMPHATICALLY AGAINST, THE NEW--GRAVE AND CONCERN-EVOKING  
--PHASE INTO WHICH THE SOVIET AUTHORITIES' ANTI-ZIONIST  
AND ANTI-JEWISH POLICY HAS RECENTLY BEEN SLIDING. THE  
ISOLATED INSTANCE OF THE RELEASE OF DR. SHTERN--AN  
INNOCENT JEW WHO SHOULD NOT HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN THE  
FIRST PLACE--DOES NOT, I REGRET TO SAY, ALTER THE  
MURKINESS OF THE PICTURE.

8. AFTER SIXTY YEARS OF SOVIET RULE--WITH THE GREATER  
MAJORITY OF OUR BRETHREN IN THE SOVIET UNION HAVING BEEN

BORN AND BROUGHT UP UNDER THIS REGIME--THE TIME HAS COME  
FOR THE AWARENESS TO MATERIALIZE WITHIN THE SOVIET  
GOVERNMENT THAT THERE MUST BE NO OPPRESSION, NO  
STRANGLING AND NO ASSIMILATION OF SOVIET JEWRY, (OF)  
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THEIR NATIONAL ASPIRATIONS AND CULTURE. THAT THERE IS  
NOT AND CANNOT BE A SOLUTION TO THE JEWISH QUESTION--  
OTHER THAN THE ZIONIST SOLUTION. THAT THERE IS NOT  
AND CANNOT BE A SOLUTION TO THE JEWISH DISTRESS--OTHER  
THAN THAT OF THE GRANTING OF FULL RIGHTS TO JEWS TO  
LIVE ACCORDING TO THEIR OWN RIGHTS.

9. FOR ALL DEEP DISSENSIONS WE HAVE WITH SOVIET  
IDEOLOGY, WE HAVE NO PART IN AN ANTI-SOVIET IDEOLOGICAL  
CAMPAIGN. ALL WE DEMAND OF THE SOVIET UNION IS OUR  
BRETHREN'S HUMAN AND NATIONAL RIGHTS. THE RIGHT TO  
LIVE BY THEIR BELIEF, THEIR CULTURE, THEIR LANGUAGE  
AND THEIR NATIONAL AWARENESS, AND TO UNITE WITH THEIR  
BRETHREN IN ISRAEL OR ANY OTHER PLACE THEY MAY WISH.  
FOR THIS ELEMENTARY DEMAND WE SHALL CAMPAIGN MOST  
RESOLUTELY--AND NOT ALONE: TOGETHER WITH ALL THE  
JEWISH PEOPLE--THAT CANNOT PERMIT A DECREE OF  
EXTERMINATION AGAINST AN ENTIRE TRIBE OF ITS CHILDREN.  
TOGETHER WITH ALL THE ENLIGHTENED WORLD--THAT CANNOT  
ABANDON THE JEWISH FREEDOM-FIGHTERS TO PERSECUTION  
AND OPPRESSION.

10. OUR STRUGGLE FOR THE RIGHTS OF OUR BRETHREN IN  
THE SOVIET UNION HAS KNOWN UPS AND DOWNS. IN THE  
RECENT PAST, WE HAVE KNOWN PERIODS OF THE SOVIET  
EXIT-GATES BEING OPENED AND TENS OF THOUSANDS OF  
JEWS BEING PERMITTED TO DEPART. THOSE WERE DAYS OF  
HOPE, WHICH I SHOULD LIKE TO BELIEVE WILL SOON RETURN.

11. IN ANY EVENT: TOGETHER WITH THE ENTIRE JEWISH  
PEOPLE, TOGETHER WITH ALL PURSUERS OF FREEDOM AND  
HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, WE SHALL NOT  
DESIST FROM OUR CONSISTENT AND VIGOROUS CAMPAIGN--  
UNTIL REALIZATION, IN PRACTICE AS WELL AS IN THEORY,  
OF THE FULLEST RIGHTS OF OUR BRETHREN IN THE SOVIET  
UNION, AND UNTIL EVERY JEW SO DESIRING IS PERMITTED  
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TO IMMIGRATE TO ISRAEL. END TEXT

12. THE PRESS OFFICE ALSO ISSUED A DENIAL OF RECENT PRESS SPECULATION THAT A DEAL HAD BEEN STRUCK BETWEEN ISRAEL, AND THE SOVIET UNION REGARDING THE DROP OUT PROBLEM IN VIENNA. BEGIN TEXT: THE SPOKESMAN OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS TODAY DENIED THE SPECULATION REPORTS BY INTERNATIONAL NEWS AGENCIES HINTING AT COLLUSION BETWEEN ISRAEL AND THE SOVIET UNION REGARDING A CURBING OF IMMIGRATION.

13. THE SPOKESMAN DESCRIBED THE REPORTS AS COMPLETELY UNFOUNDED, ADDING THAT TODAY'S KNESSET STATEMENT BY THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MR. YIGAL ALLON ON THE SUBJECT--DEMANDING OF THE SOVIET UNION THE HUMAN RIGHTS AND SELF-DETERMINATION OF SOVIET JEWS DESIRING TO BE UNITED WITH THEIR BRETHREN IN ISRAEL OR ANYWHERE ELSE--LEAVE NO ROOM FOR DOUBT REGARDING THE ISRAELI GOVERNMENT'S POSITION END TEXT

14. IN THE DISCUSSION THAT FOLLOWED THE STATEMENT IN THE KNESSET BY THE FOREIGN MINISTER A NUMBER OF MK'S ECHOED THE MINISTER'S CONCERN FOR THEIR BRETHREN IN THE SOVIET UNION. ONE OF THOSE, YEHUDA BEN-MEIR OF THE NRP, SPECIFICALLY ASKED THE GOVERNMENT TO APPEAL TO PRESIDENT CARTER TO INTERVENE ON BEHALF OF THE JEWS IN THE SOVIET UNION. FOLLOWING THE STATEMENTS BY THE VARIOUS POLITICAL GROUPS A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS TO ASSIST IN FREEING JEWS FROM THE SOVIET UNION WAS ADOPTED BY THE KNESSET, WITH ALL PARTIES EXCEPT RAKAH VOTING FAVORABLY.

15. COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO THE STATEMENT DENYING A DEAL BETWEEN SOVIET AND ISRAELI AUTHORITIES  
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CONCERNING DROP-OUTS, THE ATTENTION OF ADDRESSEES IS INVITED TO THE EMPHASIS ON FREEDOM OF DESTINATION IN THE MINISTER'S STATEMENT (PARAGRAPH 9 ABOVE): "...TO UNITE WITH THEIR BRETHREN IN ISRAEL OR ANY OTHER PLACE THEY MAY WISH."  
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## Message Attributes

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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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